

# COMMUTING PROFILE

## WEST CENTRAL REGION

### MARCH 2025

## Overview

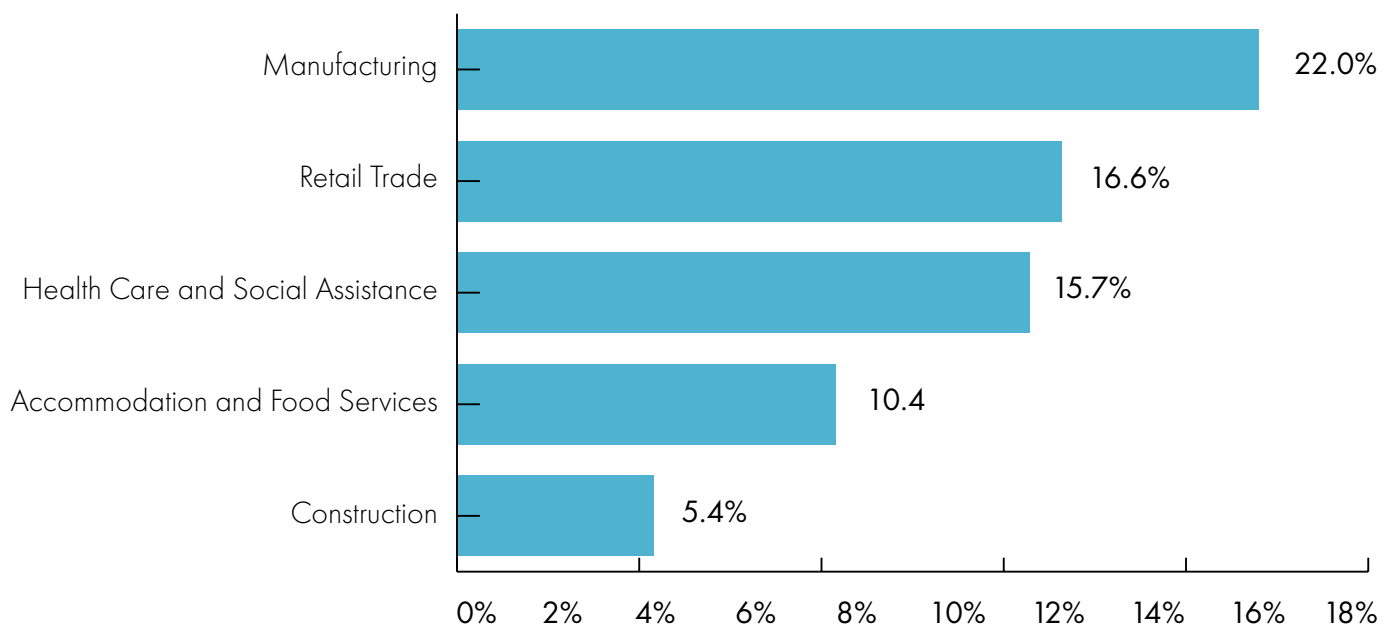
The West Central Workforce Development Area (WDA) consists of 13 counties: Bates, Benton, Carroll, Cedar, Chariton, Henry, Hickory, Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis, Saline, St. Clair, and Vernon. Sedalia, Warrensburg, and Marshall are among the largest cities in the region. In 2022, the West Central WDA employed 2.7 percent of Missouri's workforce. Nearly half (48.1%) of the workers in the region were aged 30 to 54. Workers aged 29 or younger were 27.4 percent of the workforce and those 55 or older were 24.5 percent. In 2022, 40.2 percent of workers in the West Central WDA earned more than \$3,333 per month. Of the remaining workers, 21.6 percent earned \$1,250 per month or less and 38.2 percent earned between \$1,251 and \$3,333 per month. In 2022, there were more men (52.5%) than women (47.5%) in the West Central WDA workforce.

In 2022, 28.2 percent of employees living in the West Central WDA commuted fewer than 10 miles to work, 17.8 percent commuted 10 to 24 miles, 19.7 percent commuted 25 to 50 miles, and 34.4 percent traveled more than 50 miles to work.

## Industry

*Manufacturing* was the largest employing industry in the region at 13,306 jobs (22.0% of total jobs in the region). *Retail Trade*, *Health Care and Social Assistance*, *Accommodation and Food Services*, and *Construction* were other major industry sectors having at least 5 percent of the region's employment share. Sedalia, Marshall, Warrensburg, Clinton, and Nevada were the top cities for employment in the West Central WDA.

### Top West Central WDA Industry - Employment Percentage



## Where the West Central Labor Force Works and Lives

Of the 60,482 workers employed in the West Central WDA in 2022, 67.9 percent commuted to work from within the region. The remainder (32.1%) commuted into West Central WDA from homes outside of the region.

Description	2022	
	Count	Share
<b>West Central WDA Labor Market Size</b>		
Employed in the West Central WDA	60,482	100.0%
Living in the West Central WDA	86,178	142.5%
Net Job Inflow (+) or Outflow (-)	-25,696	-
<b>In-Area Labor Force Efficiency</b>		
Living in the West Central WDA	86,178	100.0%
Living and Employed in the West Central WDA	41,095	47.7%
Living in the West Central WDA but Employed Outside	45,083	52.3%
<b>In-Area Employment Efficiency</b>		
Employed in the West Central WDA	60,482	100.0%
Employed and Living in the West Central WDA	41,095	67.9%
Employed in the West Central WDA but Living Outside	19,387	32.1%

Of the region's residents who were in the workforce, 52.3 percent, or 45,083, commuted to jobs outside of the region.

The West Central WDA attracted 19,387 workers from outside of the region. More than 41,000 West Central WDA residents lived and worked in the region.

The top five Missouri counties where West Central WDA residents resided (in descending order) were Jackson, Pettis, Johnson, Saline, and Henry. These counties were home to over 44 percent of the region's labor force.

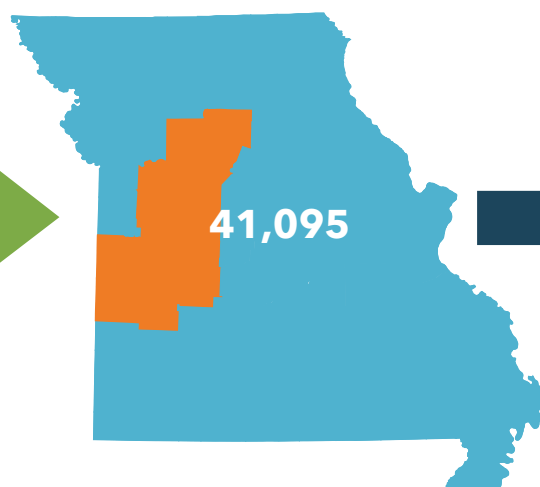
## Inflow/Outflow

Overall, 86,178 employees lived in the West Central WDA and 60,482 workers were employed in the region, resulting in a net outflow of 25,696 workers from the region.

Internal Jobs Filled by  
Outside Workers



Internal Jobs Filled by  
Residents



External Jobs Filled by  
Residents



The following table shows the worker composition for the job inflow and outflow groups as well as worker characteristics of the interior job flow. Of the 41,095 individuals who lived and worked in the region, 26.5 percent were aged 29 years or younger, 48.7 percent were aged 30 to 54 years, and 24.8 percent were aged 55 years or older. About 46 percent worked in the Services industry.

<b>West Central WDA Description</b>	<b>2022</b>	
	<b>Count</b>	<b>Share</b>
<b>Outflow Job Characteristics</b>		
External Jobs Filled by Residents	<b>45,083</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Workers Aged 29 or younger	<b>12,665</b>	<b>28.1%</b>
Workers Aged 30 to 54	<b>21,850</b>	<b>48.5%</b>
Workers Aged 55 or older	<b>10,568</b>	<b>23.4%</b>
Workers Earning \$1,250 per month or less	<b>7,926</b>	<b>17.6%</b>
Workers Earning \$1,251 to \$3,333 per month	<b>15,115</b>	<b>33.5%</b>
Workers Earning More than \$3,333 per month	<b>22,042</b>	<b>48.9%</b>
Workers in the "Goods Producing" Industry Class	<b>10,061</b>	<b>22.3%</b>
Workers in the "Trade, Transportation, and Utilities" Industry Class	<b>14,090</b>	<b>31.3%</b>
Workers in the "All Other Services" Industry Class	<b>20,932</b>	<b>46.4%</b>
<b>Inflow Job Characteristics</b>		
Internal Jobs Filled by Outside Workers	<b>19,387</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Workers Aged 29 or younger	<b>5,675</b>	<b>29.3%</b>
Workers Aged 30 to 54	<b>9,095</b>	<b>46.9%</b>
Workers Aged 55 or older	<b>4,617</b>	<b>23.8%</b>
Workers Earning \$1,250 per month or less	<b>4,441</b>	<b>22.9%</b>
Workers Earning \$1,251 to \$3,333 per month	<b>6,962</b>	<b>35.9%</b>
Workers Earning More than \$3,333 per month	<b>7,984</b>	<b>41.2%</b>
Workers in the "Goods Producing" Industry Class	<b>4,156</b>	<b>21.4%</b>
Workers in the "Trade, Transportation, and Utilities" Industry Class	<b>7,044</b>	<b>36.3%</b>
Workers in the "All Other Services" Industry Class	<b>8,187</b>	<b>42.2%</b>
<b>Interior Flow Job Characteristics</b>		
Internal Jobs Filled by Residents	<b>41,095</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Workers Aged 29 or younger	<b>10,885</b>	<b>26.5%</b>
Workers Aged 30 to 54	<b>20,023</b>	<b>48.7%</b>
Workers Aged 55 or older	<b>10,187</b>	<b>24.8%</b>
Workers Earning \$1,250 per month or less	<b>8,603</b>	<b>20.9%</b>
Workers Earning \$1,251 to \$3,333 per month	<b>16,162</b>	<b>39.3%</b>
Workers Earning More than \$3,333 per month	<b>16,330</b>	<b>39.7%</b>
Workers in the "Goods Producing" Industry Class	<b>14,047</b>	<b>34.2%</b>
Workers in the "Trade, Transportation, and Utilities" Industry Class	<b>8,104</b>	<b>19.7%</b>
Workers in the "All Other Services" Industry Class	<b>18,944</b>	<b>46.1%</b>

## Commuter Pattern

The top five Missouri counties where West Central WDA residents worked (in descending order) were Jackson, Pettis, Johnson, Saline, and Henry. All but Pettis County had at least half of their residents commuting outside their county of residence for work.

The table below indicates that many workers commuted to another county for employment. Larger cities, such as Sedalia, Warrensburg, and Marshall in Pettis, Saline, and Johnson counties, respectively, attracted workers from the surrounding counties. Interstate 70 and U.S. Highway 65 access improves the ability of West Central Region residents to commute to their workplace.

<b>West Central WDA</b>	
<b>Percent of Employees Working Outside of Home County</b>	
<b>Bates</b>	<b>73%</b>
<b>Benton</b>	<b>77%</b>
<b>Carroll</b>	<b>66%</b>
<b>Cedar</b>	<b>76%</b>
<b>Chariton</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>Henry</b>	<b>61%</b>
<b>Hickory</b>	<b>79%</b>
<b>Johnson</b>	<b>70%</b>
<b>Lafayette</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>Pettis</b>	<b>45%</b>
<b>Saline</b>	<b>53%</b>
<b>St. Clair</b>	<b>82%</b>
<b>Vernon</b>	<b>61%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, OnTheMap Application and LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (LODES), (Beginning of Quarter Employment, 2nd Quarter of 2022\*), URL: <https://onthemap.ces.census.gov/>

*\*2022 is the latest year for which LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (commuting data) is available from the U.S. Census Bureau. To maintain the consistency of data in this report, all relevant data used is also from 2022, although later data for some data points was available.*

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